

# Prof defends outlaw class held during strike

BY PAUL MANSFIELD

Despite a Senate resolution stating that all classes must be cancelled during a strike, at least three classes were taught during the week-long contract dispute.

Students in one Biology class and two Psychology classes were directed to attend classes during the strike because the information covered would be on the exam.

Psychology professor Richard Brown was one of the teachers who held class during the strike. He says that he felt extremely frustrated by the entire situation.

"The students are the ones being screwed by both sides," he says.

"They are the ones who are now doing two weeks of work in

one... It should be up to the students to decide whether they want classes or not.

"Most of my students wanted the classes. [The students that didn't] are the ones screwing themselves."

Warrick Kimmins, Dalhousie vice-president of research and academic, says that he understands the frustration felt by professors and students, but thinks the Senate resolution should have been upheld. Kimmins says that he informed students that they did not have to go to class during the strike.

"Because the Senate passed the resolution in 1988, all professors must adhere to the directive. They must not teach classes at Dalhousie or anywhere else."

Brown does not agree. He says

that the professors who held classes during the 1988 strike made the right decision. He says that professors should have had the choice to hold or cancel classes during the recent strike.

During this strike, Brown held class at the Lord Nelson Hotel at his own expense. The only contribution he asked for was a dollar from each student that came. However, because of a poor turnout, he decided to cancel the rest of his classes for the duration of the strike.

"We had arranged this before the strike occurred. All of the students seemed to be in favour of the idea. It is just so bloody stupid of the administration [to cancel all classes]. The strike was not

necessary and it just hurt all those involved."

Kimmins disagrees.

"The decision was in the best interest of the students because of the confusion in the 1988 strike. These teachers that made these arrangements are just causing a lot of grief and stress for their students," Kimmins says.

"In the end, the professors that still taught were told that they must reteach the material and that they must stop teaching during the strike."

Brown accepted that he was not allowed to teach, and said he has since made the necessary adjustments in his classes.

"I did not add any new material, I did not add seven more lectures.

The truth is I had to lose two of my lectures. [People] need to realize that professors spend months planning classes. It is extremely difficult to just drop information and make other arrangements."

Dalhousie Student Union [DSU] president Chris Adams feels that professors shouldn't have held classes during the strike.

"Obviously if they are having students in their classes complaining, then they shouldn't have taught the class. The Senate made it clear that there was to be no classes," Adams said before the conflict was resolved.

"The professors will have to redo those classes and if not the students do have a legitimate right to complain."

## Senate

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Gantar is one of several senators who voted against the special appeals process.

"It shouldn't be a matter of student appeal, it should be a matter of professors being disciplined for their disobedience," he said. "I think the professors should take responsibility."

He also says that an appeals process that applies to individual students favours those students who are more aware of their rights.

"They should treat the class as a whole, but with [this] committee some students might get marks changed or extensions and some students wouldn't.

"I'm not against student rights," he said. "I just don't think this is the right way."

## Black youth helpline to become reality

BY AVI LAMBERT

A black youth helpline in the works for Nova Scotia is scheduled to be up and running by the end of this month.

The toll free line aims to provide supportive listening, information and some referral services for black youth throughout the province. The service will be geared primarily for youth between the ages of 10 and 20 years.

Project coordinator Allister Barton says the help line "[identifies] a target group that is seldom identified as people with needs."

According to Barton, the helpline is not exclusively for black youth, but is tailored for the specific needs of the black community.

"Here is an avenue [troubled

youth] see they can come through...and at the end of the avenue are sensitized young black individuals," he said.

The volunteer staff at the helpline, who are all between the ages of 16 and 23, are trained in communication skills and suicide intervention. The Living Works suicide intervention program — which the staff is certified in — is recognized internationally. In addition to these qualifications, volunteers are trained in information and awareness sensitivity workshops on abuse, harassment, sexual orientation and drug use.

"You can't get everything, but we've tackled some of the more serious issues," Barton said about volunteer training.

The inspiration for the program came from a successful black youth

helpline functioning in Winnipeg, Manitoba:

Barton said there is "a fine line between supporting and advising". He said that the supportive listening the helpline staff provides is to help youth to "think and act for themselves...to take responsibility for their own actions".

The volunteers never identify who they are, nor will the helpline act as a drop in centre.

According to Barton, the criteria for hiring a helpline volunteer is very broad.

"You have to be someone who has a natural desire to want to help people," he said.

Training is mandatory, and the staff for the most part are a balance of males and females. All volunteers were subjected to background checks by RCMP and

child abuse resources to make sure they didn't have any emotional, psychological or criminal problems.

"The volunteers we have are the best anyone could ask for in this profession," said Barton.

Barton said news of the helpline will be advertised throughout churches, the school system, health care, group homes, correctional centres, other organizations and word of mouth.

The training program was provided by professionals who volunteered their service. The training was funded by the Nova Scotia Black Educators Association links, Public Health, the Nova Scotia Home for Coloured Children, the Department of Education and Culture, and other individuals and organizations.



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